

Better Homes
and Gardens

25c

Successful Farming

do-it-yourself ideas for decorative gates and fences

- 14 fence styles • Step-by-step information
- How to overcome problems
- Hundreds of ideas that will aid the beauty of your home.



BLANCHARD LUMBER COMPANY
5630 Lankershim Blvd. — North Hollywood, Calif.
Phone Sunset 2-2101 or Stanley 7-2187



Better Homes & Gardens

Successful Farming

Do-it-yourself ideas for GATES and FENCES

Compiled and edited by

William J. Turek

Assistant Book Editor

Better Homes & Gardens

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Problems to consider in building your fence

Fence laws . . . be on the right side

The primary sources of laws and restrictions, which the landowner should be aware of in building fences, are state laws, local ordinances, and restrictions contained in deeds and covenants relating to the laws. Varying from state to state and by neighborhood, these laws are both numerous and particularly important in thickly settled areas. First, look at the deed and title report to discover if restrictions have been placed on the land by former owners. Then, if you can, consult a qualified fencing contractor who is familiar with local and state ordinances. Although neighbors often are helpful, double check all of their suggestions for accuracy. New zoning laws may have been passed since the last neighborhood fence-building session.

Fence repair . . . saved for springtime

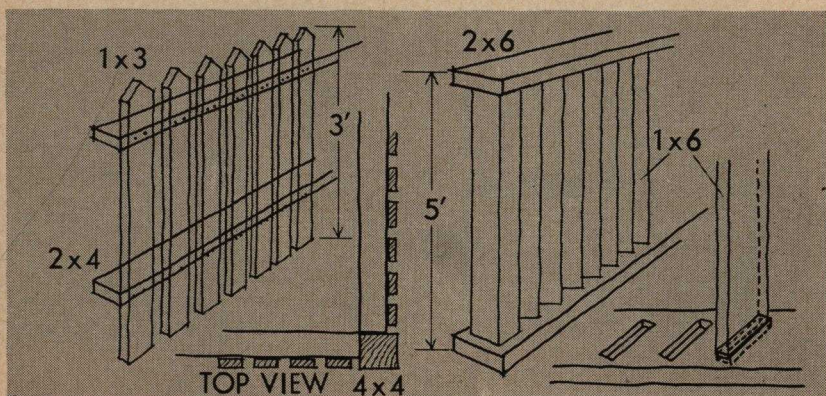
Even the best of your fences will require care and repair. Spring is the best time for these projects. The posts may be waterlogged and decaying from heavy rains and snows. Examine the posts at ground line, and below the ground line, for signs of rot. Chip out the visible rotted wood, and drench it with a toxic wood preservative. To check the alignment of the posts, look over the nails that might have worked loose, and pound down the posts that have been forced up by the heaving of soil due to frost action or drying of adobe clay. Brush away blistered or flaked paint with a wire brush and repaint.

Preservatives . . . antidecay protection

Decay, the natural enemy of the garden fence, is caused by a fungus growth. Although some kinds of woods are capable of resisting decay in their own special ways, most of them require artificial treatment. The chemical preservatives must be applied so that they thoroughly saturate the fibers of the wood. Effective chemicals that might be used against the fungus infestations include: creosote, copper naphthenate, and hot tar. Because some of these preservatives can be injurious to skin, care must be taken in handling them.

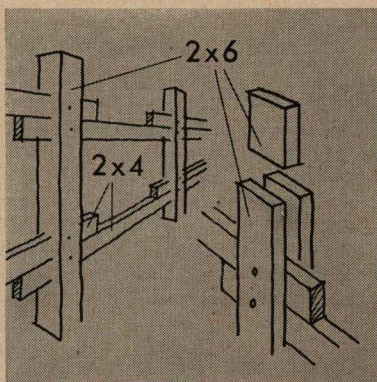
FENCES . . . how to build them

Before you select a pattern for your new fence, or buy material for it, decide what you want the fence to do. Then you'll be able to decide how high to make it, how sturdily it should be built, and how far apart to space the boards. If you plan all of the details carefully beforehand, you can get a multitude of benefits—among them, privacy, breeze control, or a screen for unsightly views. Then get a building permit, if it's necessary, and you're ready to begin.



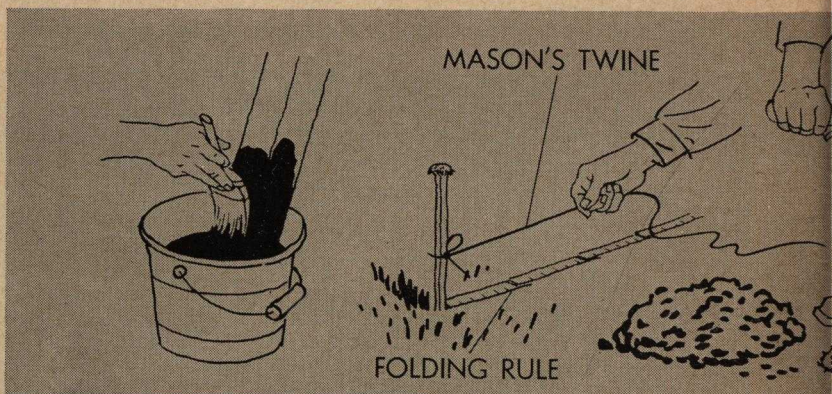
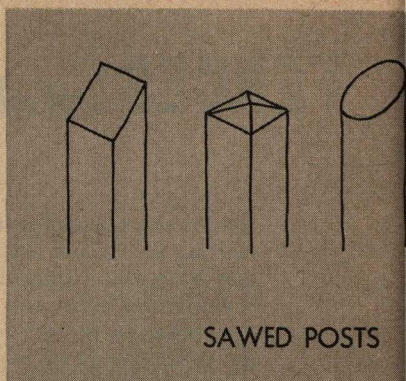
Three fine pickets

Here are three of the many fence types you can consider. (Above) Attach to rails so pickets are 2 inches off the ground. Louvered fence (above right) gives privacy and wind control. Louvers also can be horizontal. Post-and-rail fence (right) makes an excellent boundary marker and good flower supporter



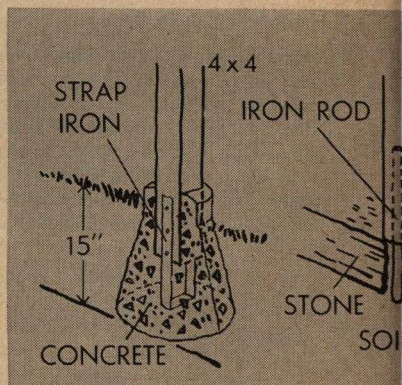
Post sizes

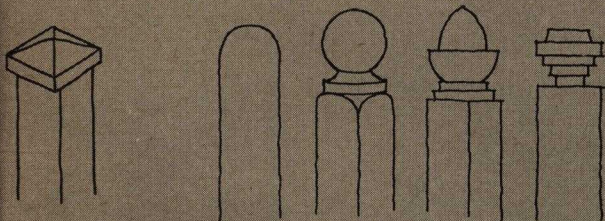
Buy posts that are $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet longer than the height of finished fence. Posts can be 4x4s, doubled 2x4s, 6x6s, or larger, depending on size and solidity of fence to be supported. Round posts need to be larger. Shape ends of the posts to shed water, and they'll last longer. Sawed and turned ones shown at right indicate the great variety in design possible



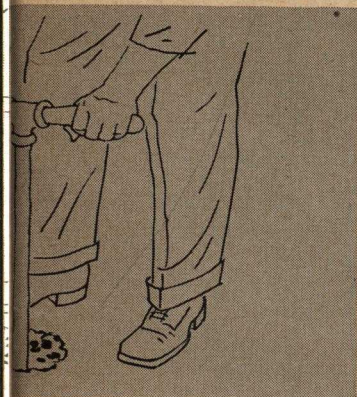
Setting the posts

Posts should be set deeper in sandy soil than in heavy soil. Gravel in bottom of hole will help drainage. Left to right: Strap iron holds post firmly in concrete. For heavy fence, where post is to go over rock, drill hole for iron rod to anchor firmly; light posts can be held by gravel or concrete. Check the post sides with a level to make sure they're plumb



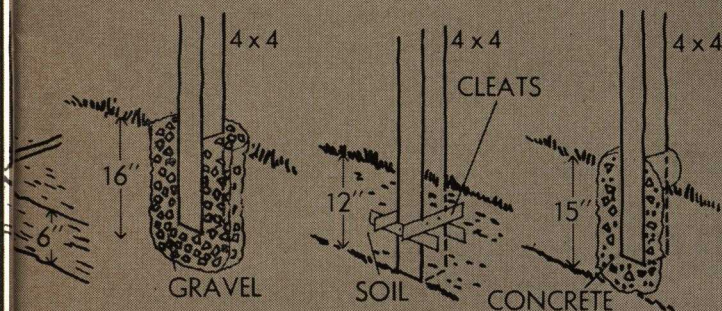


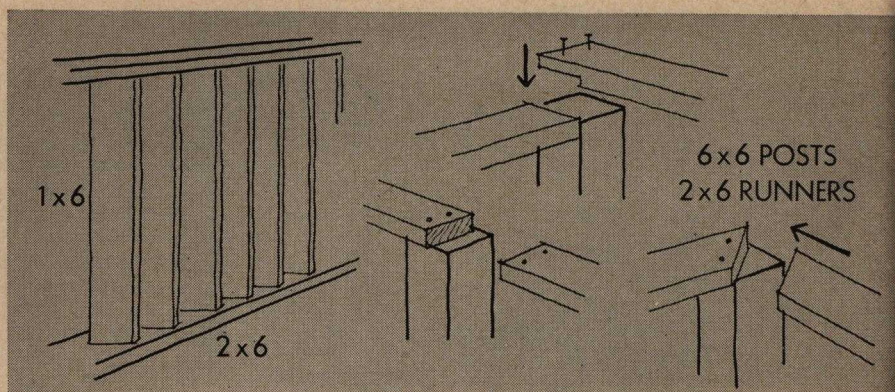
TURNED POSTS



Treating the posts

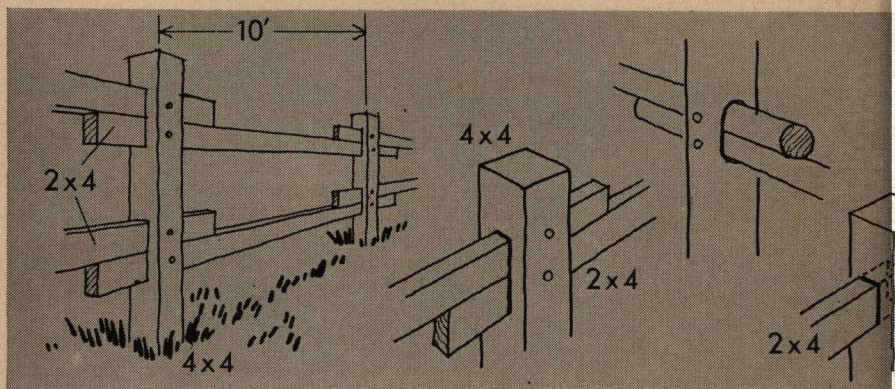
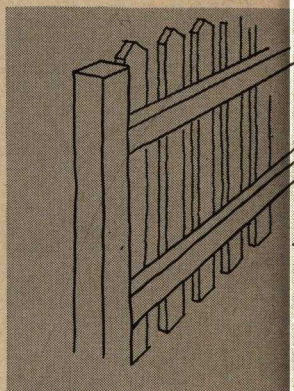
Use pressure-treated wood for posts, or treat the ends with a wood preservative containing chemicals—pentachlorophenol or copper or zinc naphthenate. Mark fence line first with stakes and twine, and space the posts along this line. Space the posts for 2x4 stringers not more than 8 feet apart, center to center. Posts for rail fence can be 10 feet apart. Use an auger for digging

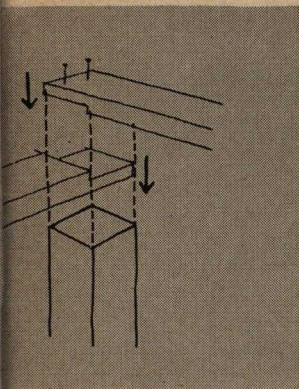




Fixing joints

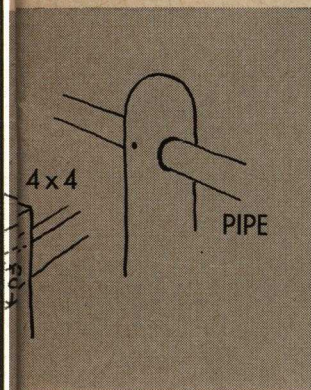
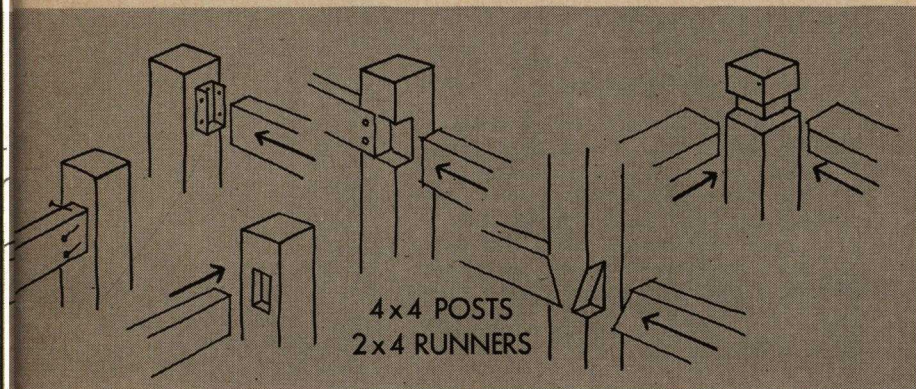
Joints must carry all of the weight of fence between posts. Treat all joints with wood preservative before painting. Toenailed butt joint (left) will carry light picket or grapestake fence. Metal bracket and grooved or mortised joints at right will hold heavier rails. Consider using grooved joints for a heavier fence





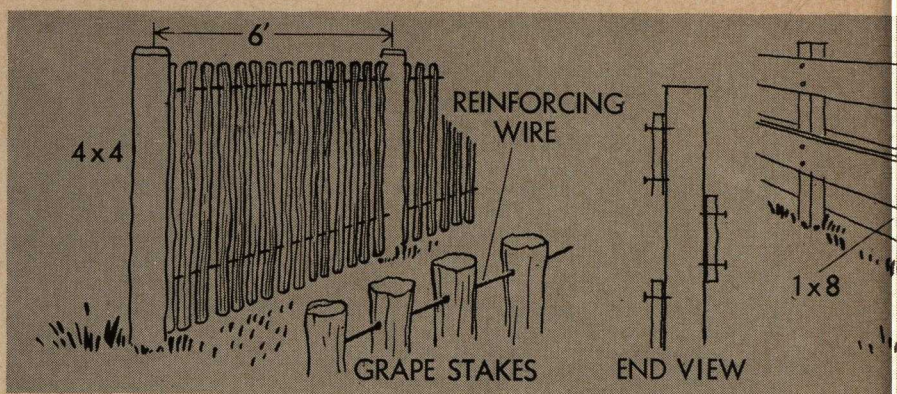
Adjusting rails

Lap joints are easy to do, fine for attaching top rails. Rails lapped against post sides mean heavy strain on nails, but you can use lap joints to carry rails for light pickets (they can be used for post-and-rail fences). Place rail on top of post, as shown, and nail in place. Notice ways rails can be butted on top of the posts. The sizes can vary some



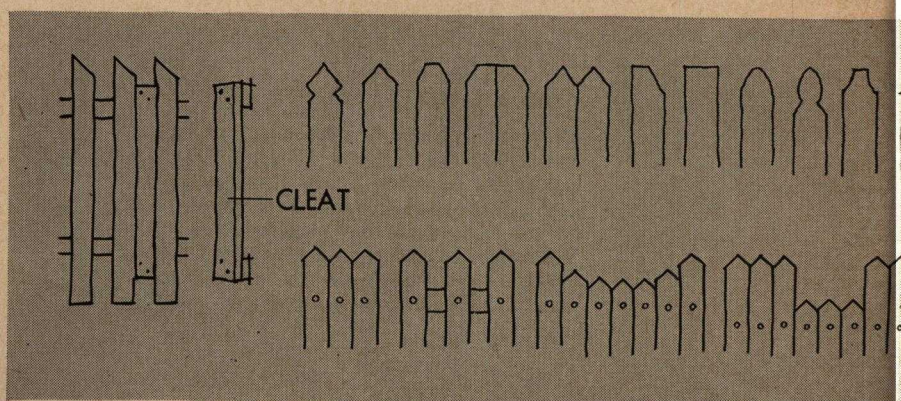
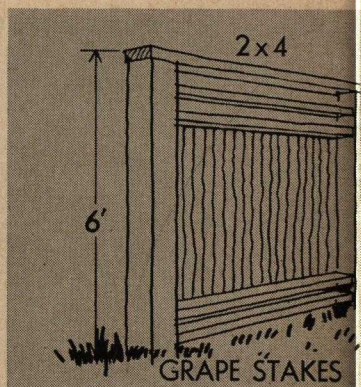
Slotting posts

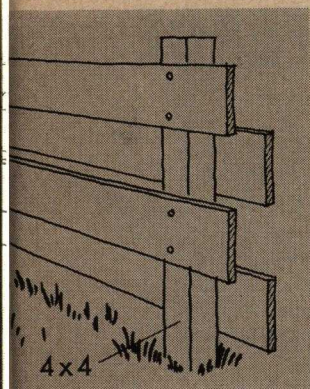
Three of the posts shown here are slotted. Stretchers run through slots, overlap, and are nailed in place. They form an important part of the fence design. To make slots, bore holes and saw out wood between them. You can even use rope or pipe as stretchers. Fourth joint shown is imitation mortise-and-tenon, good for post-and-rail assembly



Grapestake variations

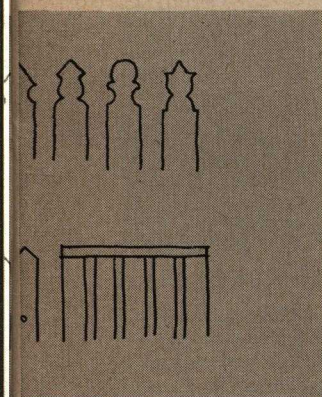
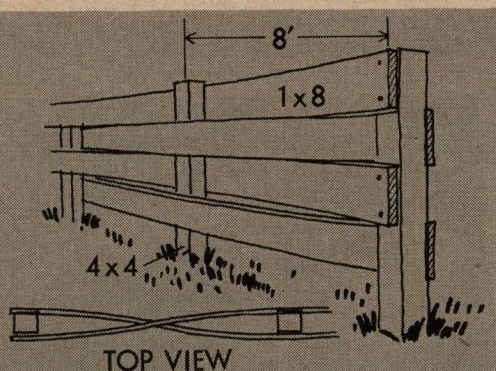
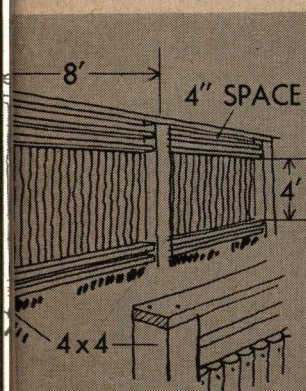
Combine different materials and make a fence of your own design. Grapestakes can turn briskly modern when framed with dressed wood. Place posts exactly, and precut horizontals to simplify fence assembly. Set posts deep. See (top view) how the runners are nailed on alternate sides of posts





Unusual grapestake

This out-of-the-ordinary fence can use wire of lead-pencil thickness for the stretchers. Stakes are strung on this heavy wire, stretched taut between the posts spaced 6 feet apart. Board-on-board fence gives privacy, but doesn't cut off the wind completely. Nail the runners to alternate sides of the posts



Picket styling

If you want a picket fence, consider styling it to suit your house. Vary the shape of picket tops, or group pickets in special pattern, and your fence will have individuality. To line up pickets accurately, and quickly, cleat both ends of a board that's as wide as space between pickets; use as guide for nailing

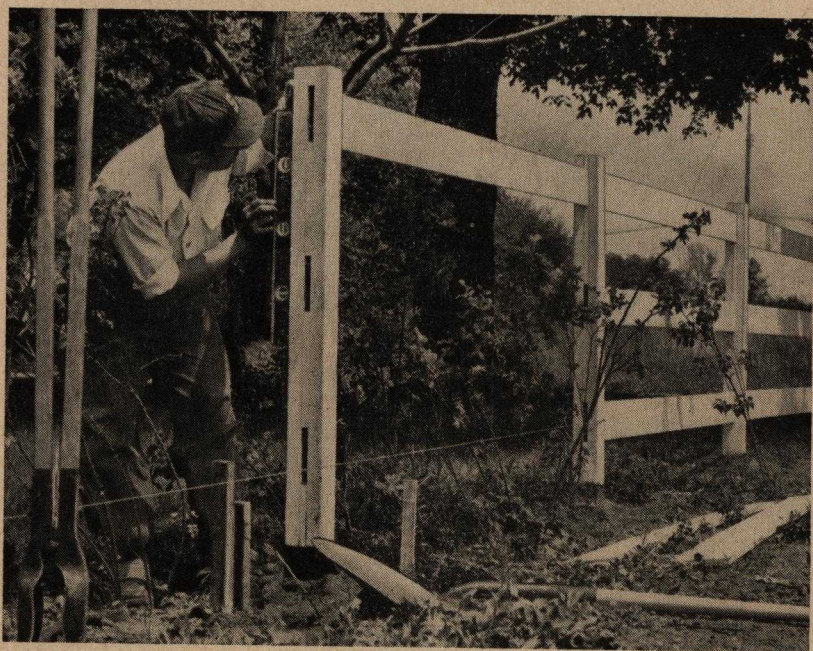
MAKE A LOW-COST FENCE

If you need a neat fence—and cost is your big consideration—here's one you can make, paint, and erect for little more than 60 cents per running foot. This one—128 feet long—cost less than \$80 for materials.

Posts. To make 17 posts, a local lumberyard supplied 34 six-foot 2x4s of No. 2 fir. From 1x4-inch lumber, they cut to order 4 spacer blocks for each post—one 2 inches long for the top, two 11 inches long for the middle spaces, and one 30 inches long for the bottom.

Rails. The rails are simpler. Order 48 eight-foot 1x6s and give them a coat of primer.

Constructing the fence



An excellent boundary fence

This fence, with two "front sides," makes a fine boundary between adjoining property. It's 4 feet high, with the 4x5-inch posts spaced 8 feet apart. The posts are joined by three 1x6-inch rails—with the top rail 2 inches below the tops of the posts, and the lower rail at least 4 inches above the ground

How fence goes up. Stretch a heavy cord tightly along the length of the fence line, at least 12 inches above the ground. Mark your post positions with the stakes, and dig the postholes 2 feet deep. Set each post so that the edge just touches the cord. After the second post is set, adjust the top rail so that one end runs through and is flush with the edge of the first post, with the other end halfway through the second post.

Complete each 3-rail section before going on to the next section. Drive sixpenny nails through the posts and into the rails from both sides to fasten them securely. Apply a final coat of house paint.

When the grade is uneven. If your lot isn't level, you can sink the posts deeper on the high spots and make the fence more perfectly horizontal. But if there are definite high and low spots on the line—and your fence happens to be rather long—it will look better if you follow this procedure: Set all the posts at the same depth, and let the fence follow the ground contours. Use a carpenter's level to set the posts straight. If, after a season or two, the post has canted out of plumb, force it into line with an automobile jack, brace it straight, and tamp the soil down around the base.

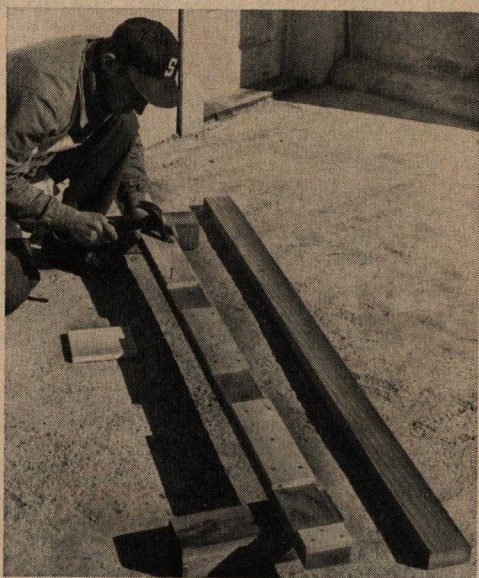


Applying preservatives

To lengthen the life of any fence, soak or paint the joints and the parts that go into the soil, wherever moisture can collect, with a pentachlorophenol or copper or zinc naphthenate preservative. Treat before fastening the segments together, or use pressure-treated wood

Spacing blocks

Nail all your spacing blocks securely to one of the post 2x4s so your post won't warp. A piece of 1x6 lumber, the same width as the rails to be used, will help you line up your spacing blocks before you nail them

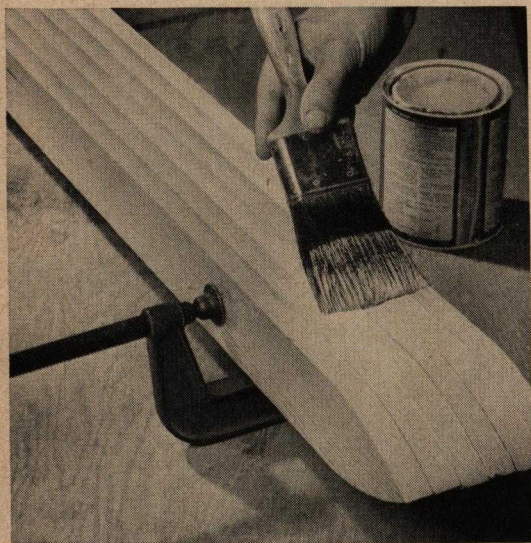


Dick Frazier



Assembling the posts

After spacers are nailed on, place the second 2x4 so it is exactly flush with the first one. Fourteenpenny spikes are just long enough. Put some spikes in from each side to prevent warping. Then paint your posts—and the precut rails—with primer *before* you assemble them



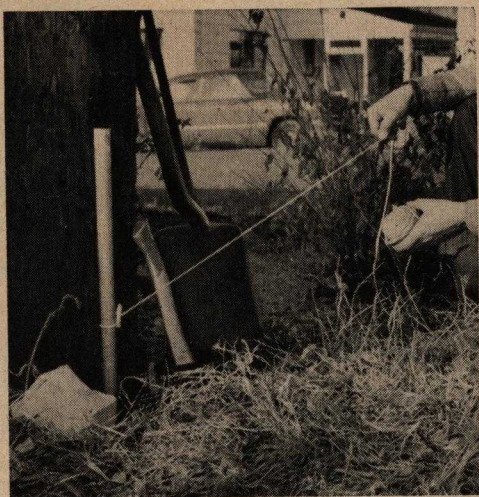
Painting sides, tops

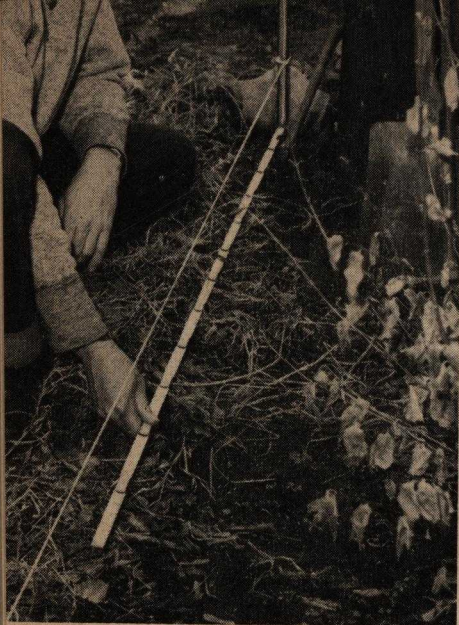
To prevent later decay, all the sides, tops, and bottoms of fence pickets should be well painted before nailing. Clamp the pickets (as shown left) and coat the edges first. A tight fit will stop most creeping of the paint. Brush the picket faces lastly to get a smoother job (use wire brush); repaint

Digging the postholes, working the posts

1 Use guide stakes

Keep your fence on your own property to avoid disputes. Mark the end and corner points with stakes that are high enough so that the cord will clear the ground. To make your fence last and look good, treat posts set in soil with a preservative





2 Post spacing

Spacing of your posts depends on type of fence you want to build. For 2x4 stringers, spans should not exceed 8 feet. Measure the distances with a long folding rule. Drive stake for the marker

3 Using an auger

You can dig postholes quickly in the soft ground by using an auger equipped with screw blade. A two-handled digger works best in rocky soil. Dig the holes at least 30 inches deep and, following this, throw in approximately 6 inches of gravel or crushed rock



6 Setting the posts

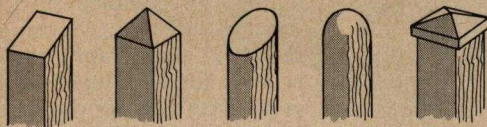
When setting wooden posts, use common gray cement with soil in making backfill. In average clay-loam soil, throw in good handful of cement after each 4-inch fill of soil. The cement will mix well with the soil as you tamp it in



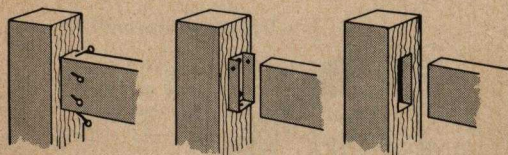
4 Preserving the wood

Unless you treat your posts with a chemical wood preservative, they'll rot underground in a few years. Use pressure-treated posts, or dip them in a solution containing pentachlorophenol or copper or zinc naphthenate. Give the above ground joints same treatment

Shape your post ends to shed water



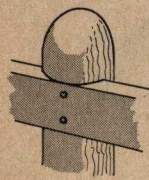
Six ways to attach rails to posts



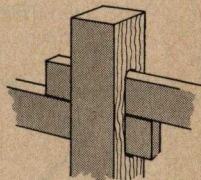
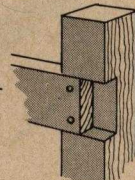
Butt joint

Metal bracket

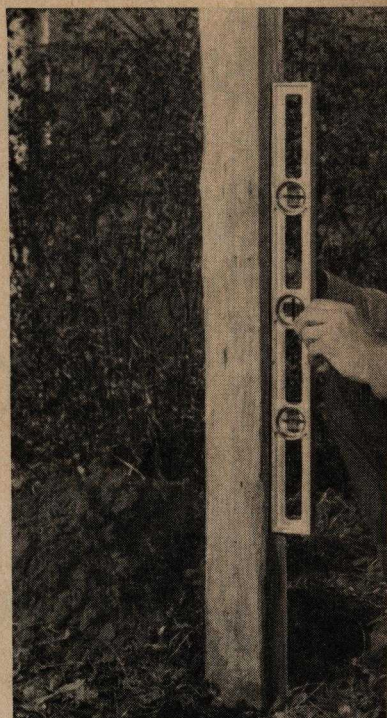
Mortised joint



Two types of grooved posts



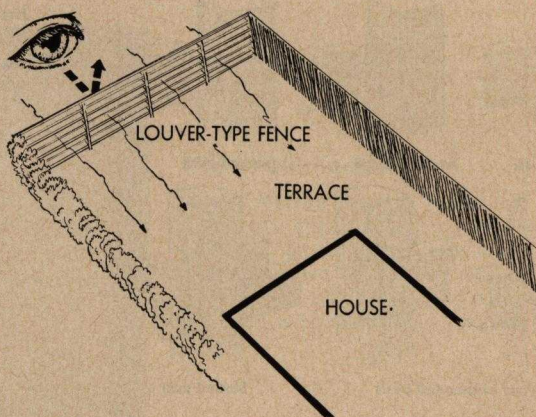
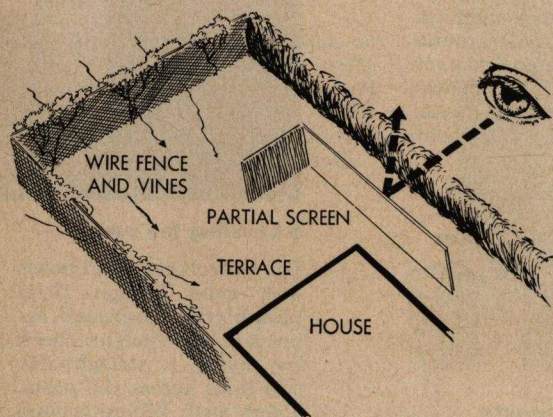
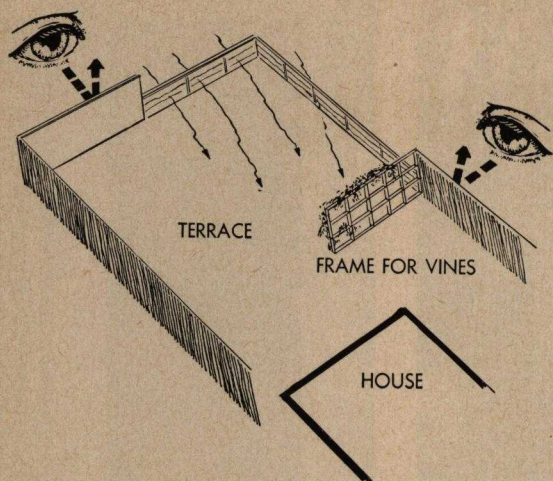
Slotted post



5 Leveling the posts

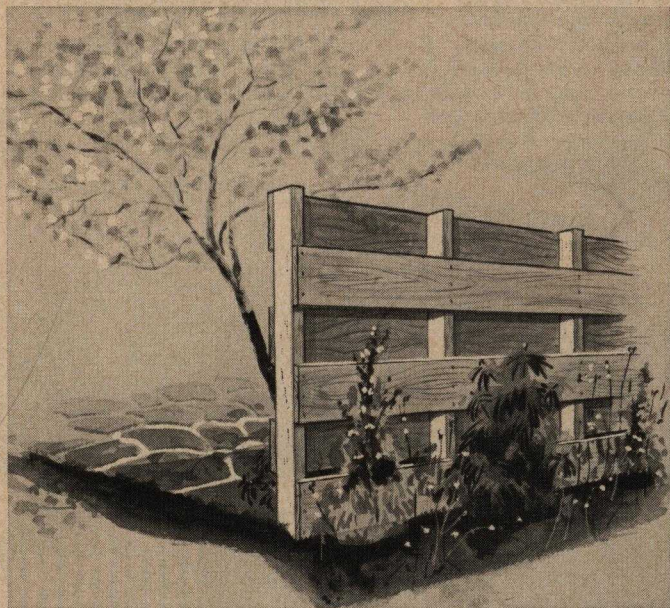
Use a level on two adjacent post sides to get them plumb. On level ground, set posts at same height; check by laying a straightedge and level across the posts. Tamp well. Where ground slopes, set the posts plumb, but run the rails and stretchers parallel to grade. Lay out the right-angle corners with a carpenter's square

PRIVACY



You can get privacy by enclosing your entire lot, (see drawing on top left), or by using the practical and attractive partial screens that are seen in the second and third drawings. The louvers, trellis fences, and the other structures let the breeze in easily but allow the lawn and terrace areas to retain moods of privacy. The placement of your own screens depends on where you want the privacy, on the directions from which outsiders may peer in, and on any natural private barriers that you may have (trees, hedges, shrubs, vines). Things to remember in building fences: The old stand-by, the solid fence, isn't the best remedy for wind control. Louvers direct breezes the best.

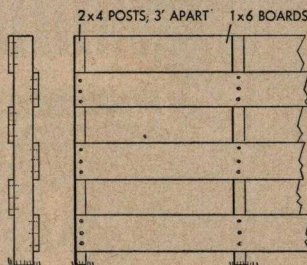
MAKES BETTER LIVING



Alternating boards

If you prefer complete privacy without loss of cool breezes, consider this board fence, with the boards alternating on opposite sides of the posts.

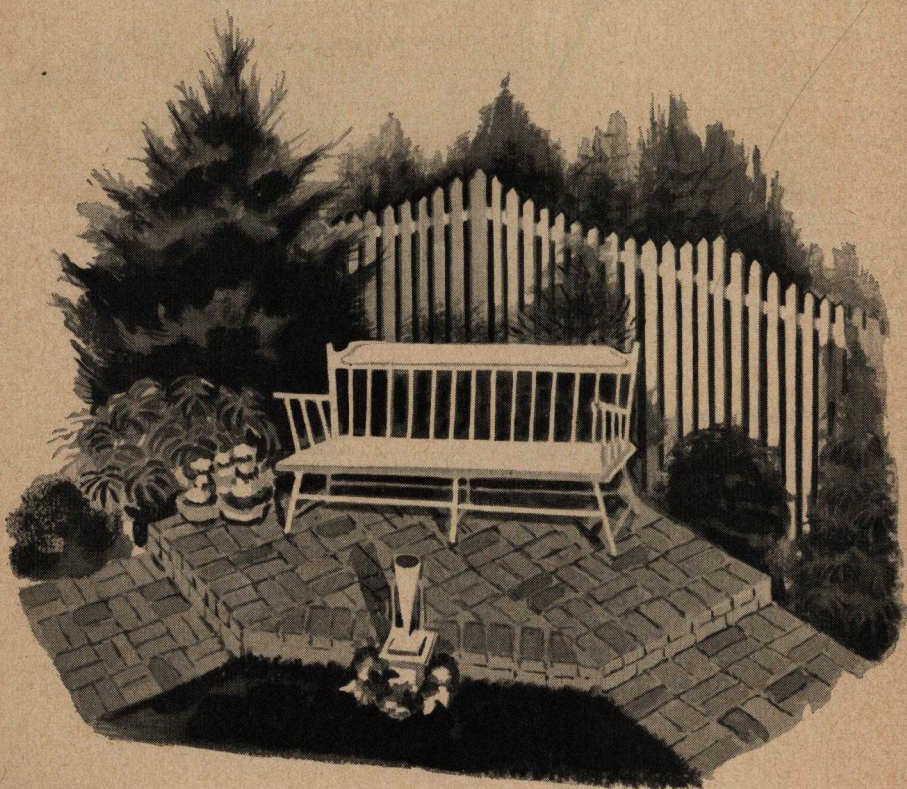
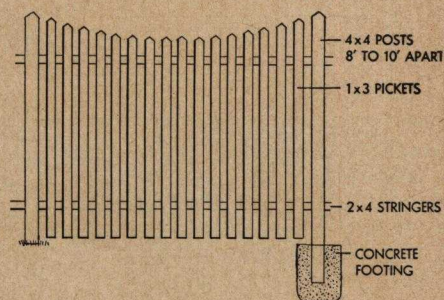
You'll need low shrubs and flowers to soften the harsh look of straight, plain boards.

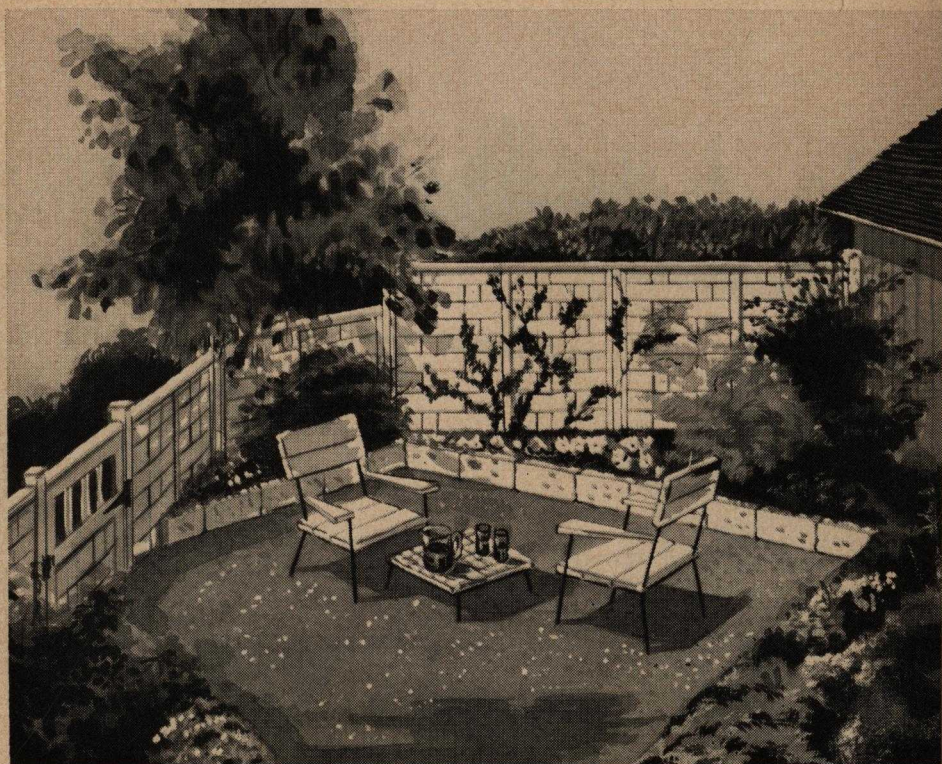


Privacy with pickets

Extend a brick garden path to a small, raised platform of bricks in a corner of your garden. Make it attractive and private with a simple picket fence, and enliven the area with shrubs and potted plants.

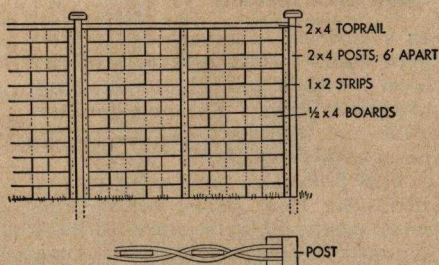
Add a sturdy and comfortable bench in this quiet spot, and you'll have an ideal place to spend warm summer evenings. See diagram at the right.

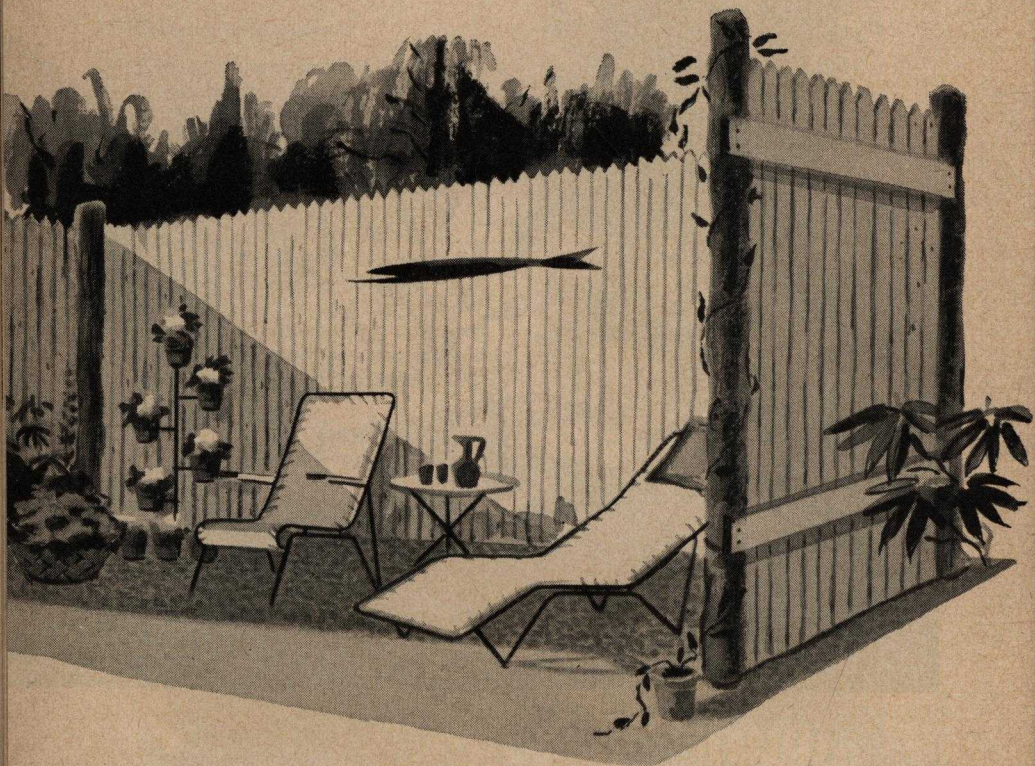




Variety with basket weave

If the garden that affords enough privacy for quiet relaxation is your dream, get out a pencil and put your garden space on paper. See where you can add a graveled terrace bounded with cinder or concrete blocks and a fine basket-weave fence. Build fence at graduated heights to suit your situation and for view

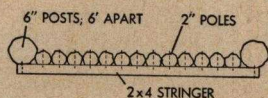




Good wind shelter

In a crowded neighborhood, enclose your small terrace—or part of the lawn—with a tall windbreak fence of poles or stakes. You can soften the solid and the hard-looking corner posts with vines.

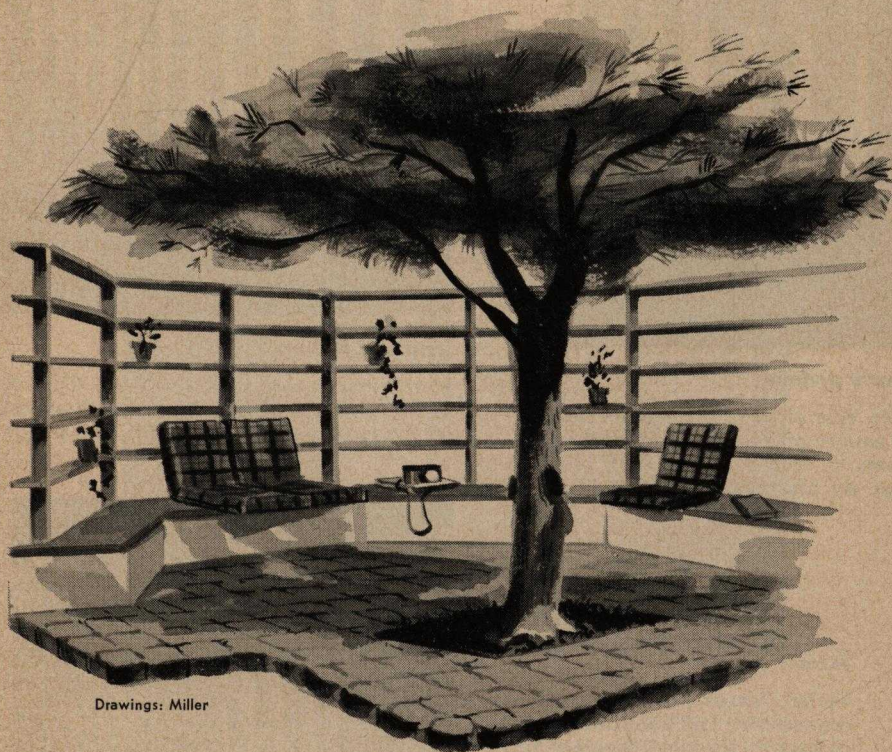
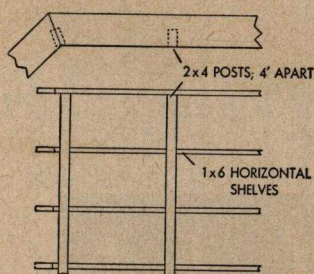
This protective fence shelters you effectively from strong winds. Add some comfortable, weather-resistant summer furniture, and you'll have an informal, outdoor living room.



For a corner view

Privacy often may be largely suggested. It's so with this comfortable spot in the shade of a large tree. The sawed butt ends of the lumber provide the "paving" around the tree.

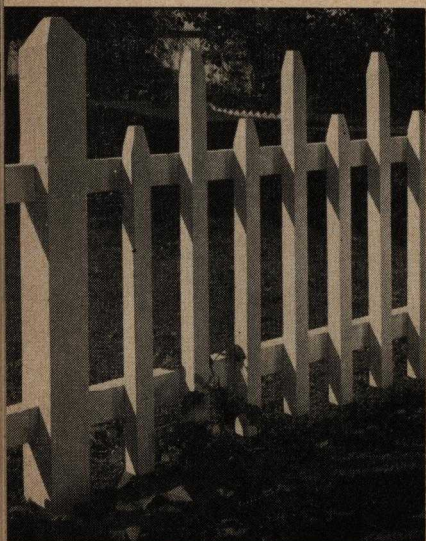
With this sort of open fence—that's not difficult to construct—and a seat wall here on the edge of a slope, you can get all the seclusion you want without sacrificing the cool breezes. It's especially fine for persons who dislike being fenced in—and still want a view.



Drawings: Miller

FOURTEEN FENCE STYLES TO

1 *Pickets . . . trim and traditional*



Square pickets

Make this sturdy, open fence of 2x2 square pickets by spacing the pickets 5 inches apart. Add interest by alternating the heights

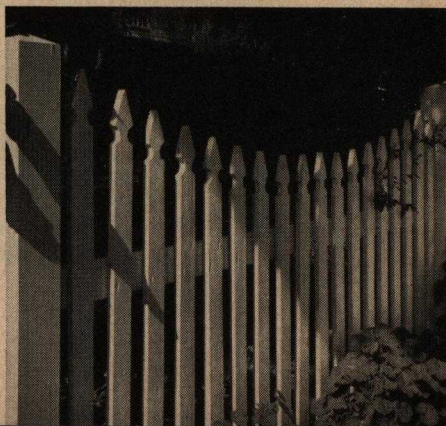
Arrow pickets

Picket fences are neat, inviting, economical, and adaptable. In the pickets at the right, average fence has 3-inch pickets, 3 inches apart

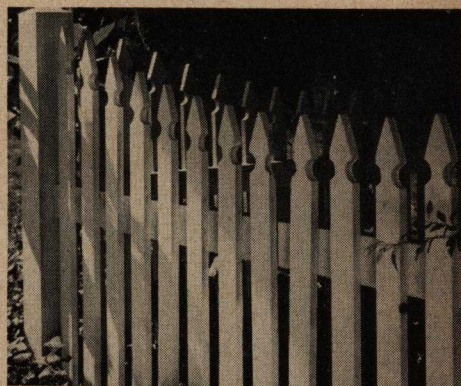


Unusual pickets

Here's a save-the-tree innovation. Cut off top of picket, and square off small space with a cross member; branch grows freely



CHOOSE FROM

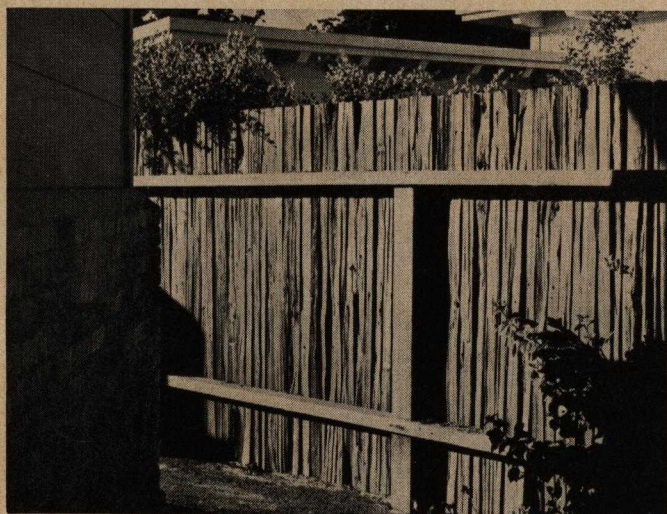


Variable pickets

Complete construction of fence indoors. Use salvage lumber. Cut the tops by clamping together



2 *Slats . . . formal grapestakes*



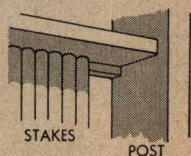
Sturdy, handsome rustic slats

The back view of this slat fence shows how rough 2x4s provide interesting framing. Lower rail is notched into post a foot above ground; the upper rail is set on top of post 1 foot below top



Modern pioneer slats

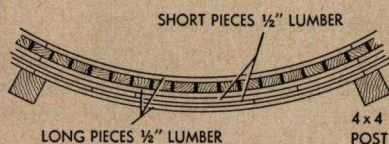
Long, narrow slats or grapestakes—set in frames of rough-sawn native lumber—can do the job where complete privacy is needed. If fence is high and soil soft, set posts at least 4 feet in ground



Slats on a curve

Sometimes there's a special need for a fence to round a curve.

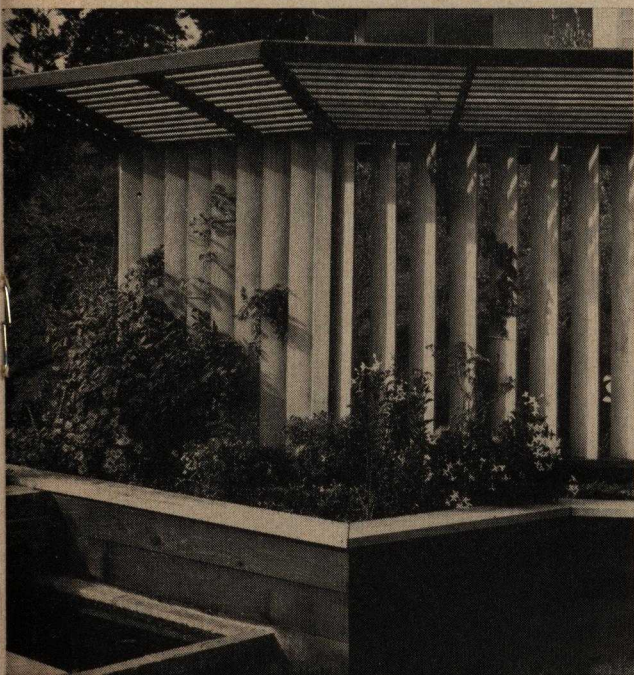
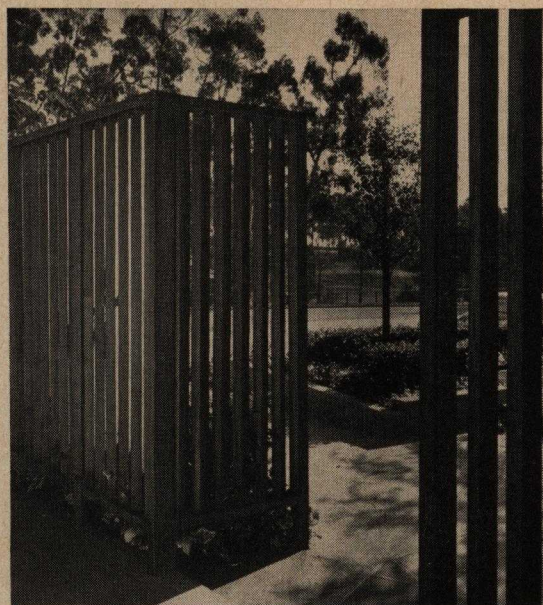
The slats are nailed to thin boards of different lengths bent in an arc and nailed one over another. Either cut tops evenly, or leave them varied.



3 Louvers . . . handsome and practical

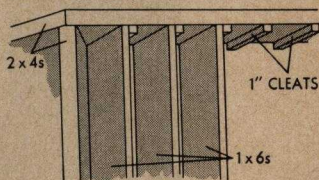
Half louver—half slat

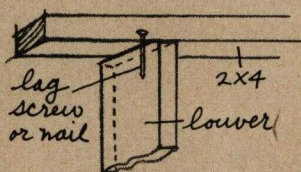
You can get considerable privacy without cutting off the air and light with a fence of vertical louvers. Set posts firmly, then bridge with top and bottom rails and space evenly



Decorative louvers

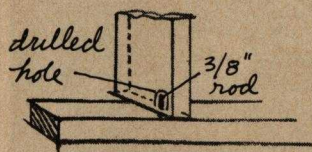
The simple variations in spacing and angle arrangement of louvers can give you just the amount of privacy you need. Baffle of horizontal slats provides both screening and protection





Movable louvers

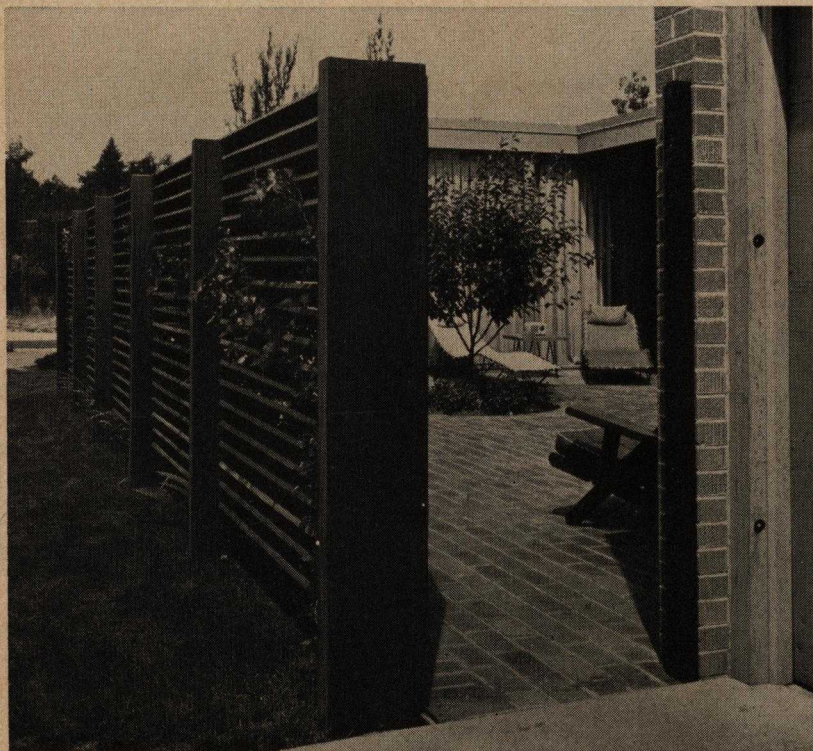
A louvered fence is one of the happiest solutions to the problems of weather. You can open the louvers for the view, or close them to stave off the wind. Pivot the louvers on exact centers between the upper and lower frames. Nail the tops. Remove nails; replace them with lag screws





Conservative, horizontal louvers

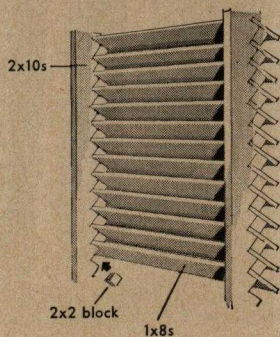
Louvers can give you privacy, yet don't kill breezes. Nail 1x1 stops to 4x4 posts at an angle determined by width of boards you use. Set posts in ground, 4 feet apart; nail boards to stops and cap with 2x6s



Corner-lot louvers

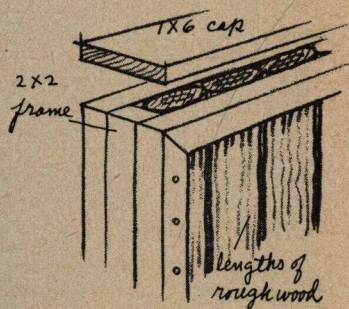
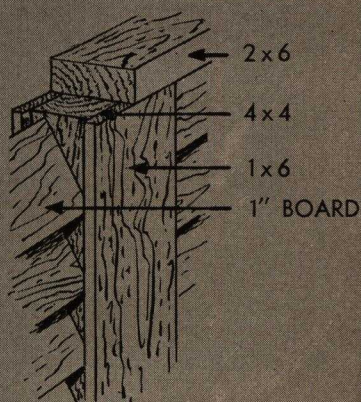
The fence above makes privacy a real possibility on a corner lot, while still observing the 5-foot setback.

Louvers are fixed to catch the south breezes of summer (see diagram on right).



Louvered fences, like venetian blinds, allow you to look out, but prevent others from looking in. In addition, they give you plenty of breeze and create interesting and different shadow patterns.

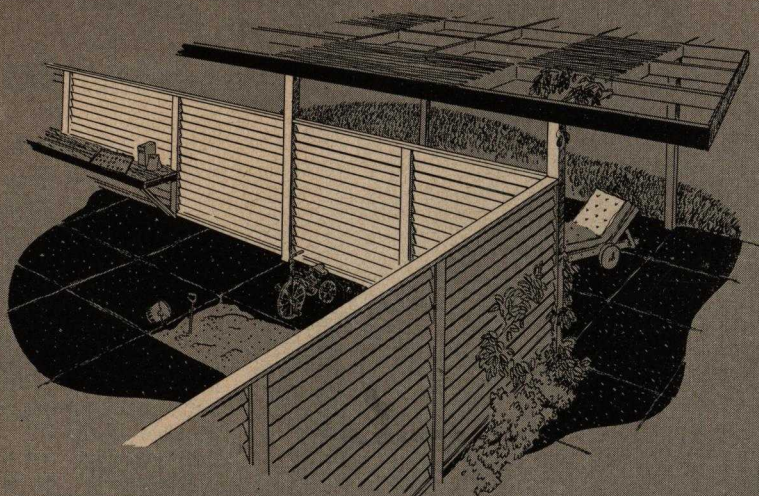
Finish the top of the louver with a 2x6 (as shown at close right and in detail drawing at far right), or use individual caps on the posts. Most of the louvered fences are considered to be architecturally decorative enough without abundant vines and bushes.



Panel louvers

This handsome louvered fence will shelter your terrace or garden from strong winds, and, because of the movable panels, offers you any degree of privacy that you may want.

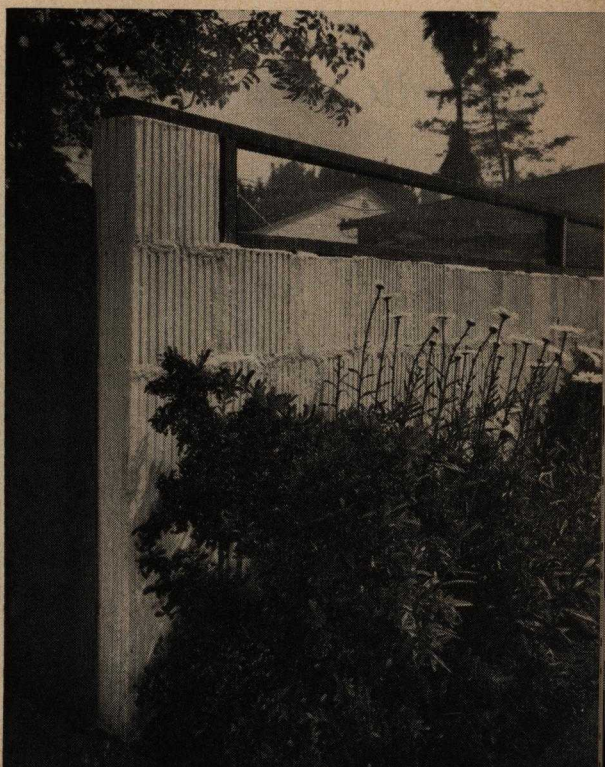
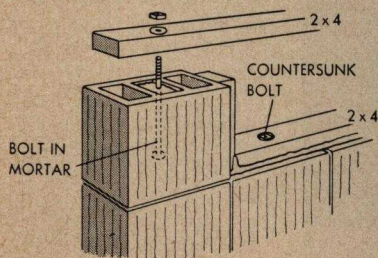
Rough boards set in white frame of 2x2s form the panels that pivot louver style. They are open in picture at left.



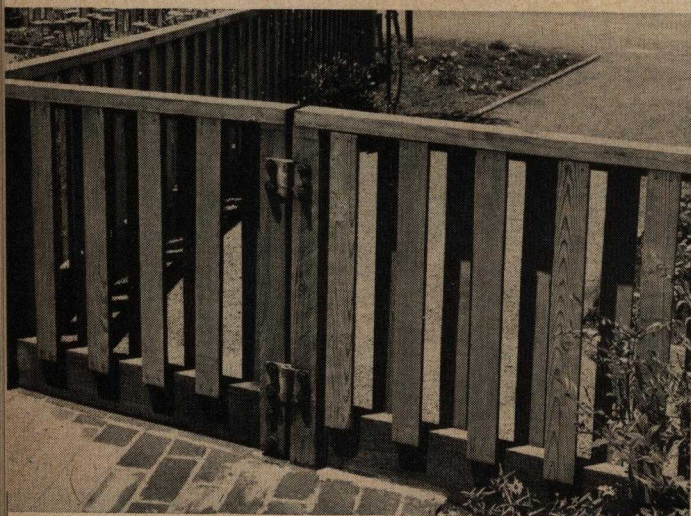
4 *Solid wall . . . permanent and private*

Clay building tiles

You can get maximum privacy and security by using painted hollow clay building tiles, joined with mortar. An ideal fence for a garden and play area just off street. Green-stained wood superstructure breaks monotony



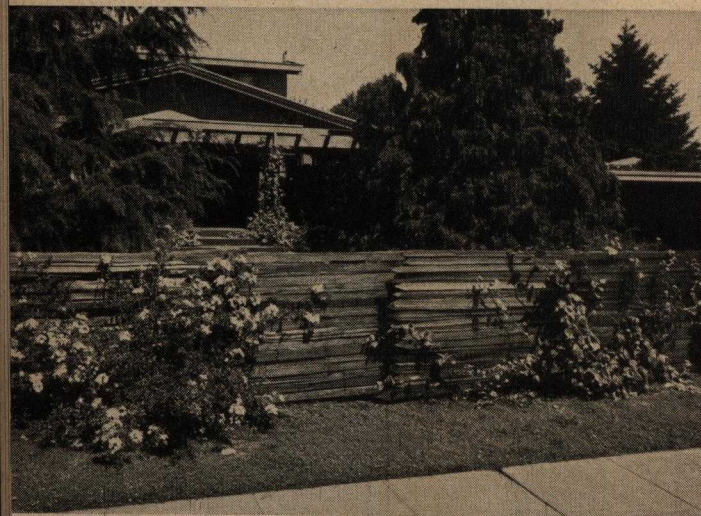
5 *Board-and-board . . . louver variations*



Alternate rails

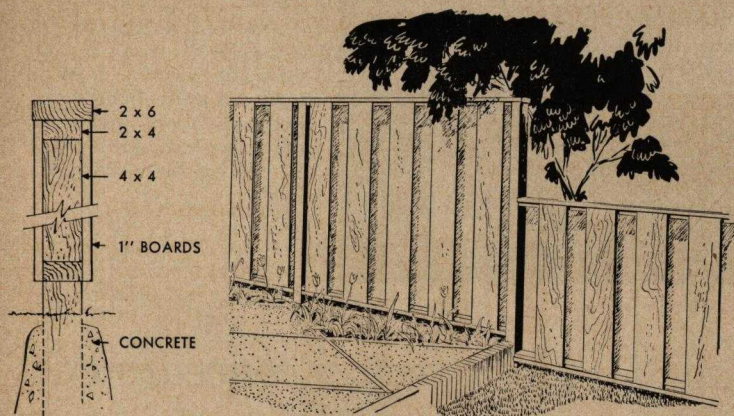
This type of board-and-board fence has no wrong side. Its simple design looks the same from either side. A strong and durable fence, it will keep out dogs, but need not be costly. Use scrap lumber for it. The top is made of 2x4s, crating

6 *Rustic pickets . . . saplings, grapestakes*



Pickets on their side

Redwood saplings, laid horizontally, carry out the long and low lines of home beyond, yet give the fence a rustic and an informal feeling



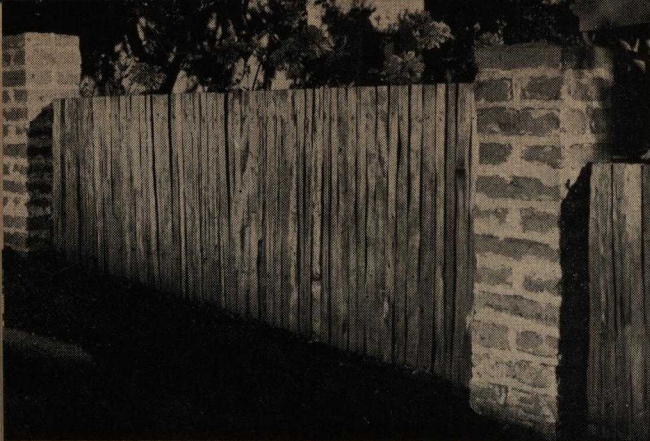
Handsome, practical board-and-board

An unusual board-and-board fence that lets in the breezes and creates good shadow lines, while giving you complete privacy, can be built as shown. If you don't mind giving your neighbors a view of your garden, place all the boards on same side of fence, with 3-inch open joints between them; use 1x10 or 1x12 boards



"Stockade" fence

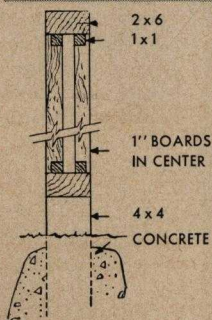
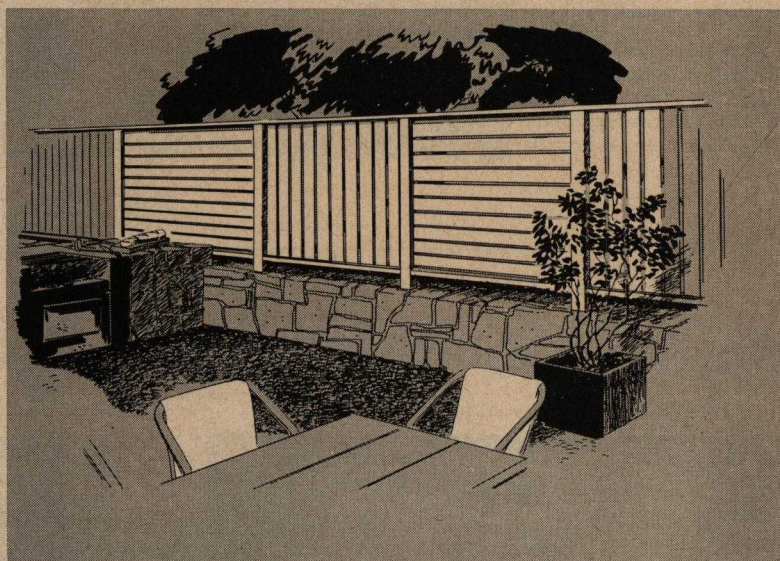
With this imitation (and small scale) Western frontier fence, you can give your lawn area an aura of informality



Solid board-and-board

A solid fence need not have a hostile look. This one uses the friendly irregularity of split pickets set between adobe piers to offset any hint of coldness. Rough bricks make piers

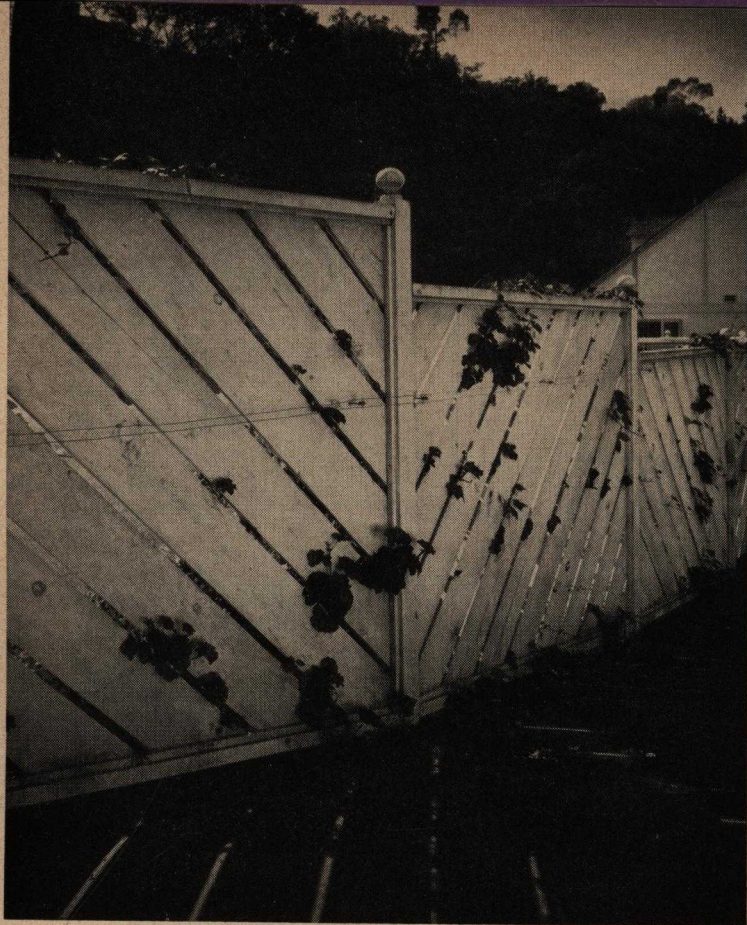
7 *Board... for effective concealment*



A striking and different fence

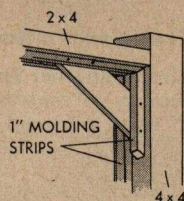
Alternate panels of 1-inch boards make an unusual board fence of great beauty. You can leave a space between the boards or butt them together—it all depends on you and your special problem.

Quarter rounds or 1x1 strips will hold the boards in place. For finishing, try sandblasting, wire brushing, or light burning with a blowtorch as interesting changes from the ordinary paint and stain.



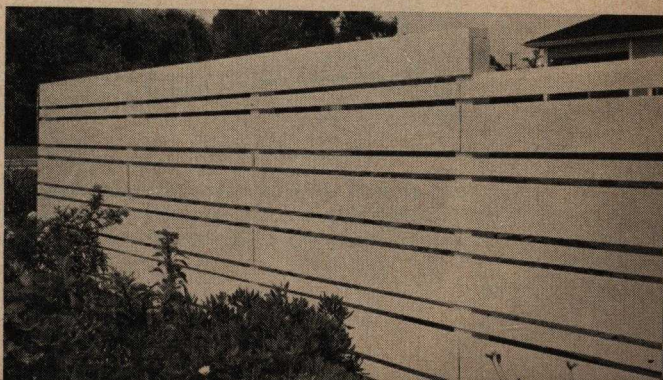
Fence design is important

Here's informal privacy with a step-down fence of wide boards nailed diagonally into section frames, and held with 1-inch strips. Leave an inch of space between the boards for ventilation

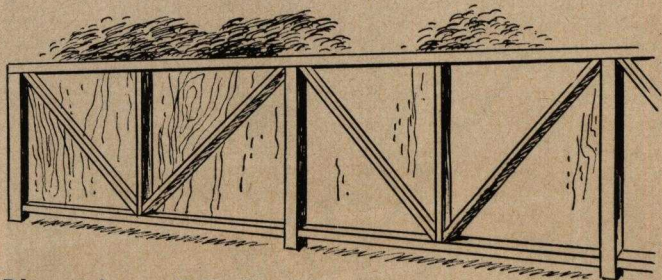


Horizontal boards

A private fence like this avoids the formidable look of a solid wall, yet gives you seclusion and a breeze. Set 4x4 posts 4 to 8 feet apart, and top them with a 2x4. Then onto faces of posts, nail alternately 1x2 and 1x6 boards. You can save time by prepainting the boards

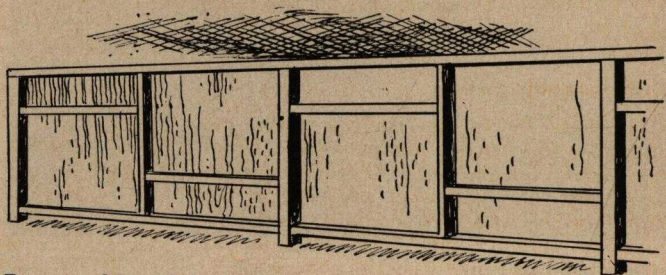


8 *Solid panels . . . best for privacy*



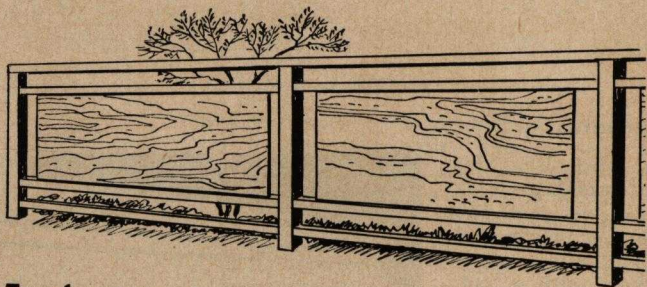
Diagonals are distinctive

Half the trick is to build a framework that makes a design. The diagonal members not only add strength, but add interest. You can have the frame show on either the inside or outside



Frame with a flair

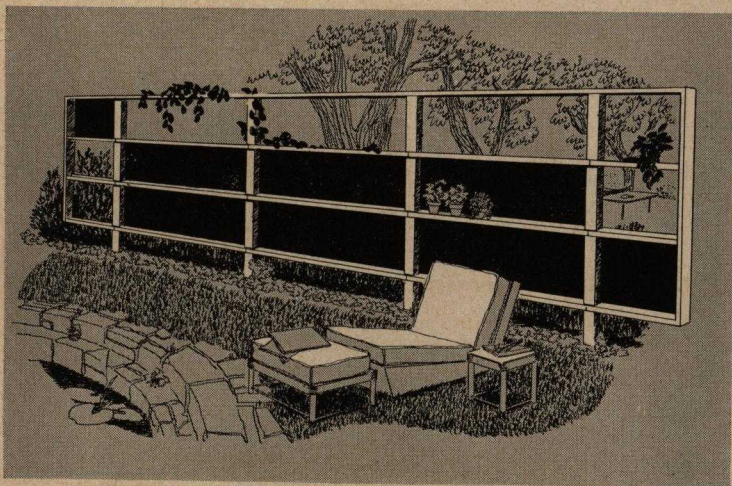
Here's another frame that avoids monotony. Face it with a variety of materials—anything that comes in large panels. If using plywood, plastic, hardboard, get weatherproof type



Two-face screen

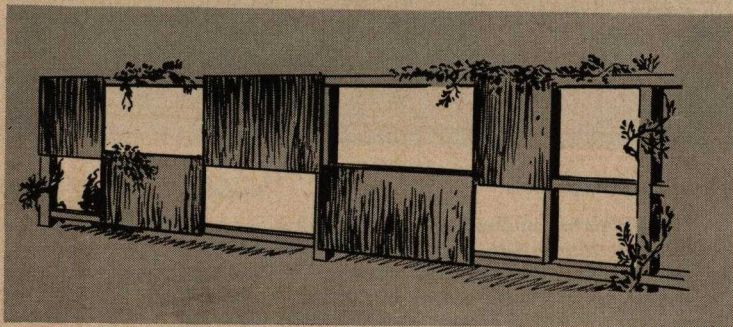
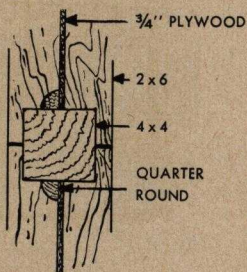
One of the most attractive features of this fence is the fact that it's equally handsome from either side. Panels are 4x8-foot plywood, held between crossrails by 1-inch strips

9 *Partial panels . . . new, adaptable*



Handy movable panels

Partial screen fences, like the one above and below, give you privacy and serve as a wind-break without fencing you in. The basic frames support the solid panels of plywood in the screen shown above and to the right. The frame is mortised around 4-inch posts (as shown at the right). Many panel variations are possible



Use your ingenuity here

A random-panel screen lets you use your own originality, both in the spacing and in type of material. For panels you can use inch-square pickets, plywood, asbestos board, woven panels—and colored paint

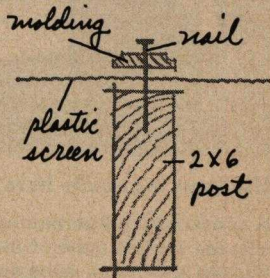
10 *Plastic screens . . . for a change*



Translucent panels

A plastic panel is the secret of this handsome windscreen variation. Private screens of this inexpensive material have been known to stay in good condition for over 4 years. Treat the wood with a preservative.

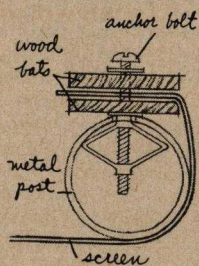
Attach the plastic panel to a wood frame, as shown. Then the wind cannot shake it loose. Panel admits light, but diffuses objects in the distance.



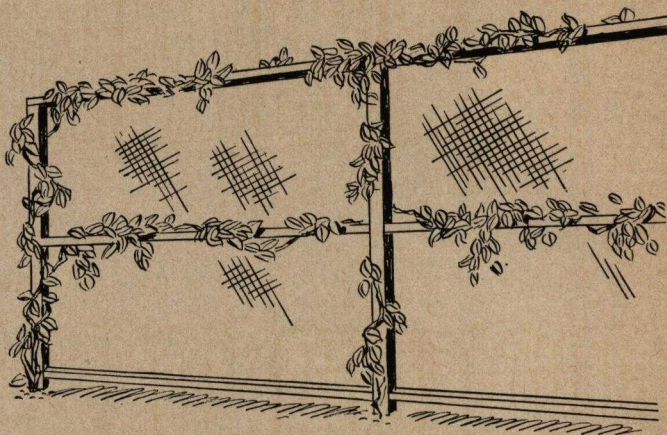


Plastic-cloth strips

Strips of plastic-impregnated screen cloth are woven in and out through poles for this unusual fence. Because it's so lightweight, the fence can be set up easily without undue physical effort and without marring the house design. It's especially adaptable to short curves, and forms an effective background for plants. Space the uprights an even distance apart. In windy locations, the uprights should be grounded perfectly straight in the concrete. The anchor bolt, screwed through the two wood bats, holds the plastic in place



11 *Wire screen . . . economical, variable*



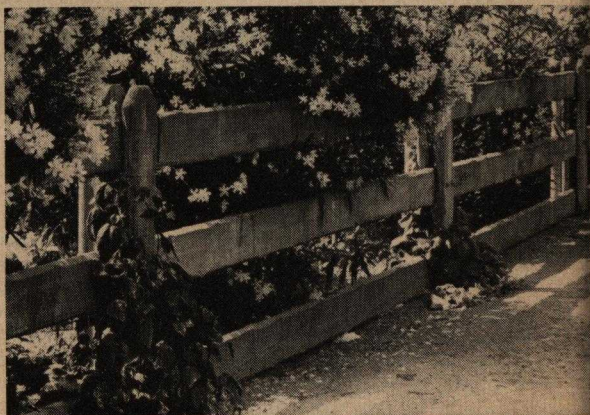
Double-duty screen

Your own ingenuity often will show you unexpected ways to get privacy. This screen is a tennis-court backstop, planted with vines that soon will make a complete screen. You can use wire mesh in many ways; it's the best material for admitting breezes

12 *Rail corral . . . with a pioneer look*

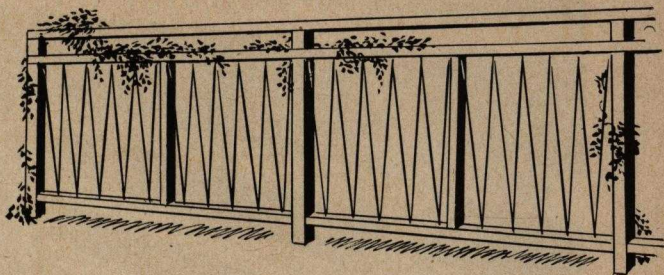
All-purpose fence

This sturdy and rustic fence is built of rough lumber, hand-hewn along the edges. Use bolts to secure rails between posts for strength. Iron pipe gives it support



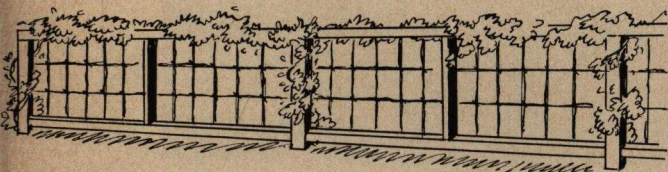
Relax with vines

Another way to use your screen frame for vines is to string the wires or rope between the top and bottom rails. This can be a permanent or a temporary measure. If you want it to be permanent, use rustproof copper or aluminum wires



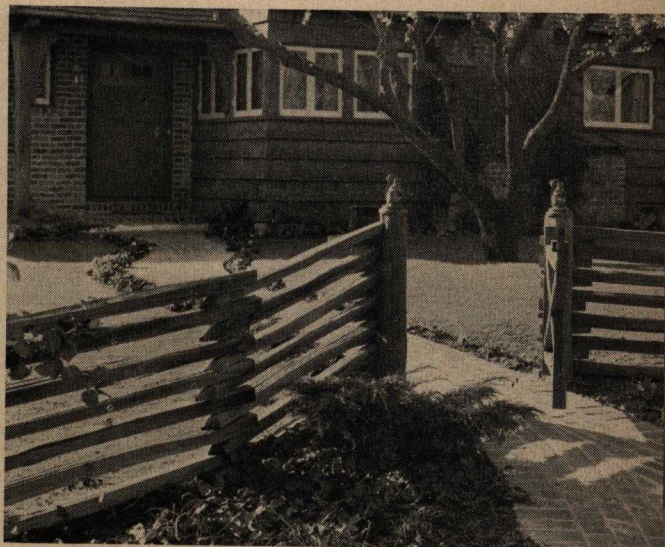
Practical rural fence

If you want a screen of vines, try nailing a square-mesh-wire farm fence to the frame. This wire mesh is strong, long-lasting, and well-suited for permanent trellis. Use a decay-resistant wood for posts and crossrails to get the best results

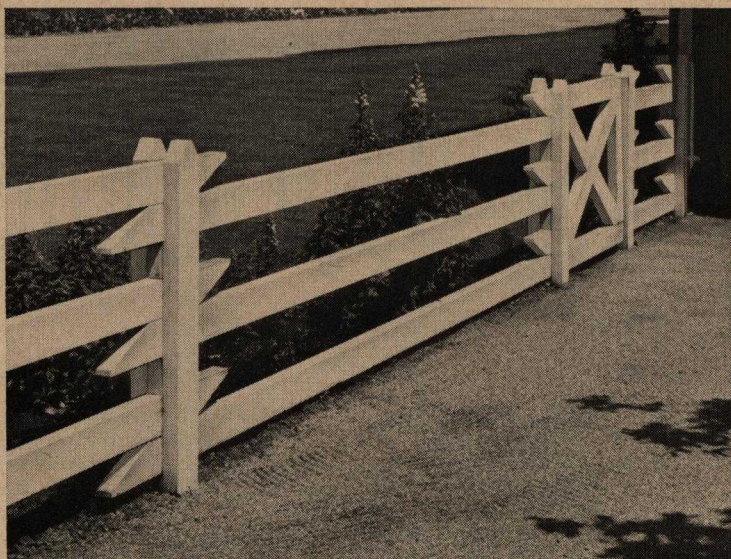


Easy to make fence

Grapestakes of long-lived redwood make this unpainted fence distinctive and simple to construct. One stake is piled onto another. Eliminate the posts by zigzagging



Rail corral (continued)

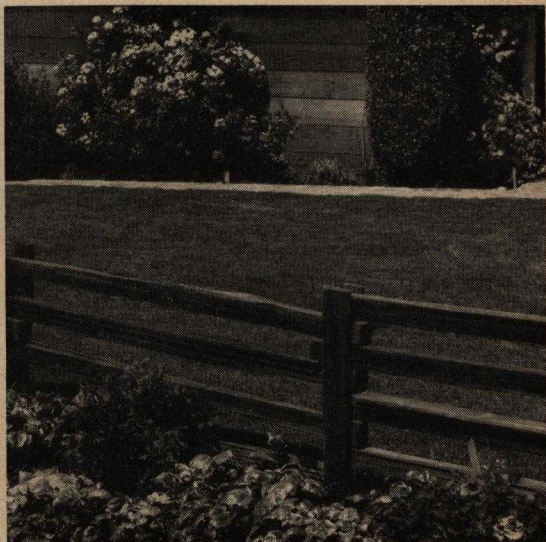


A distinctive boundary marker

Where you want to mark a boundary, and where two-footed and four-footed trespassers aren't expected, consider this simple but effective design. Rails are spiked between pairs of posts; slanted ends can be sawed at mill. The crisscross of the gate design serves to brace it

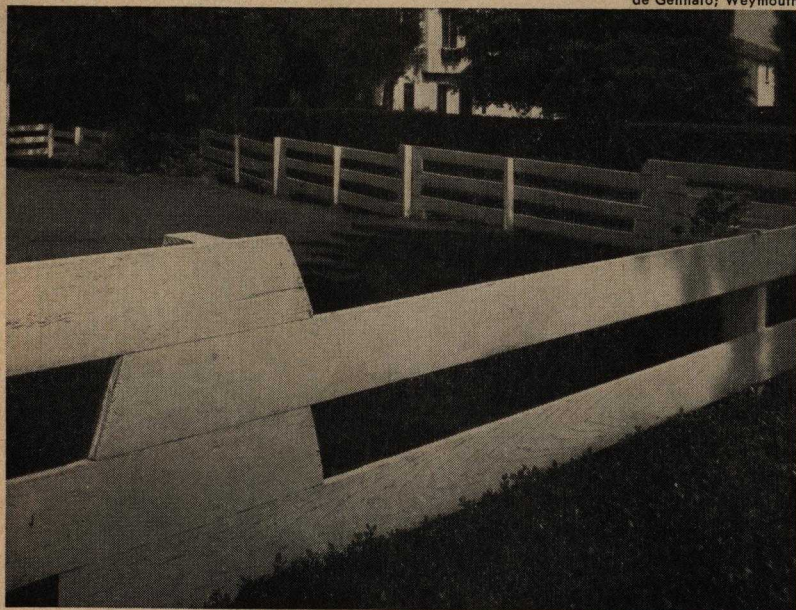
Split rails

This easily built, light fence is made of split rails, lapped one above the other, and held in line by the posts set on each side of overlapping ends. You can build it to any height desirable. Leave room to mow the grass growing below bottom rail



13 *Rail . . . informal and practical*

de Gennaro; Weymouth

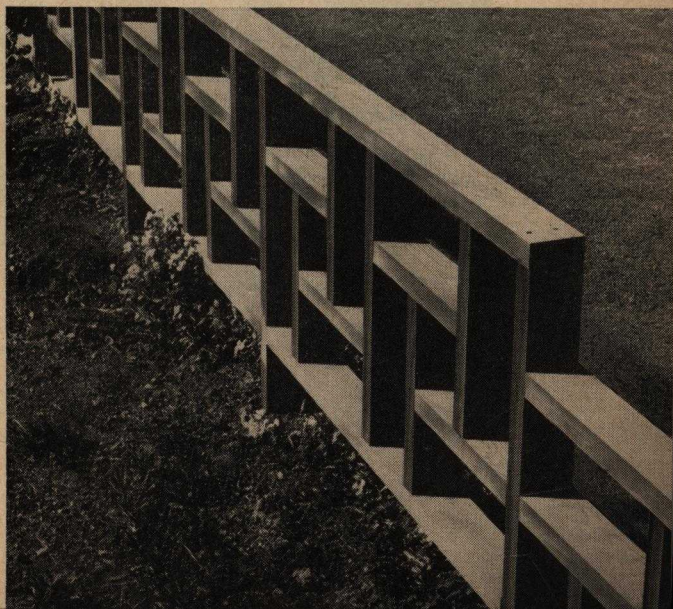


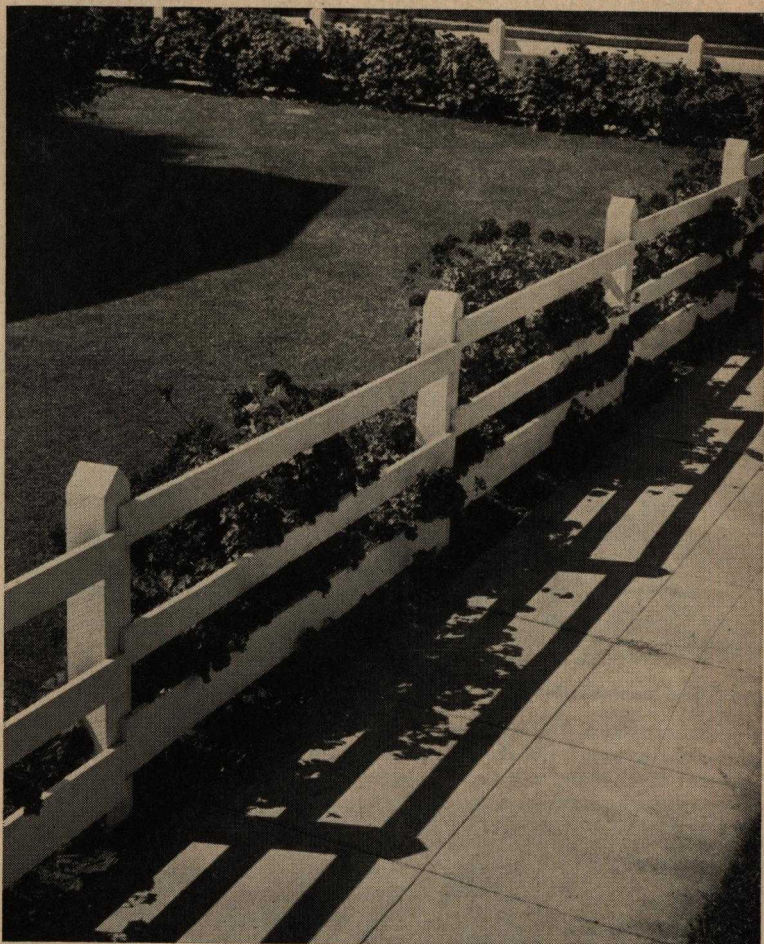
A modified post-and-rail

Here's an attractive variation of the traditional post-and-rail fence. Set 1x6 boards—or use rough planks—so they overlay your posts on each side and hide them. Your fence will be interesting, both vertically and horizontally

Step-down fence

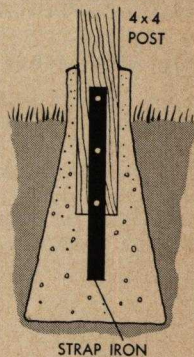
Short ends of scrap lumber serve to fill in between top and bottom rails of this open boundary fence that steps down to meet the grade of land. Aluminum nails won't stain

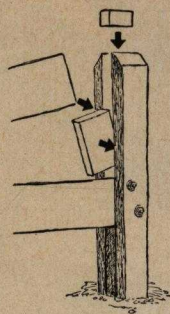
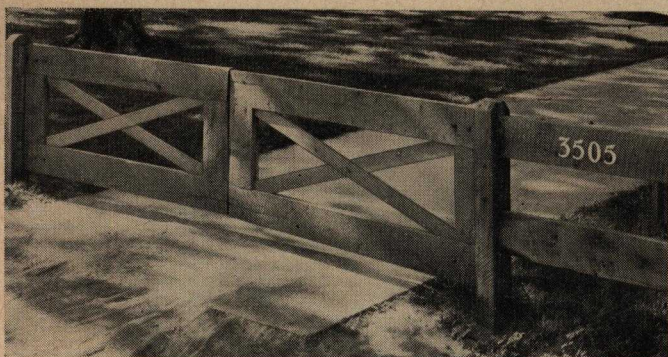




Neat and handsome horizontal lines

The horizontal lines of this post-and-board fence—a variation of the rail fence—go well with a one-story home. Top boards are 1x4s, bottom rail is 1x6. Boards are nailed to posts, 8 feet apart; good fence for slopes

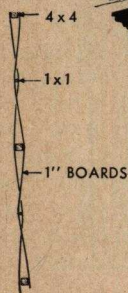
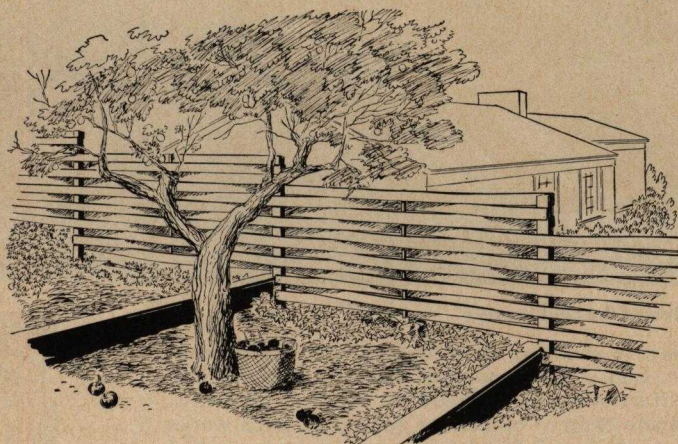




Easy-to-build posts

Ingenious posts simplify building of this neat, sturdy fence. Sandwich short piece (see drawing) of 1x4 between two longer pieces and set in the ground. With the lower rail (1x6) resting on a short piece, nail in short piece for top rail

14 *Basket weave . . . unusual, effective*



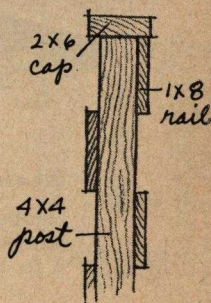
Weave your own design

Lumber lengths of lumber weave handsome and durable fences. Dimensions are anything handy: $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 inch thick, 4 to 12 inches wide, 14 to 18 feet long. Posts are 4x4s



Board-and-board basket weave

Where you need to shut out noise, dust, and disturbance of passing traffic, here's an economical high fence that's not monotonous. Start every other board on inside of first post, then nail opposite ends to outside of next post. This works easily with sections 6 or 8 feet long. Latch strike is applied to the 1x4 trim, and is set over as a cap ornament in front. Children will enjoy using the fence as a "jungle gym" — it's fun to climb. You can fend off strong winds with this horizontal board-and-board basket-weave fence, and direct sun will not be able to enter; it's unusual and informal-looking



What can YOUR FENCE DO FOR YOU?

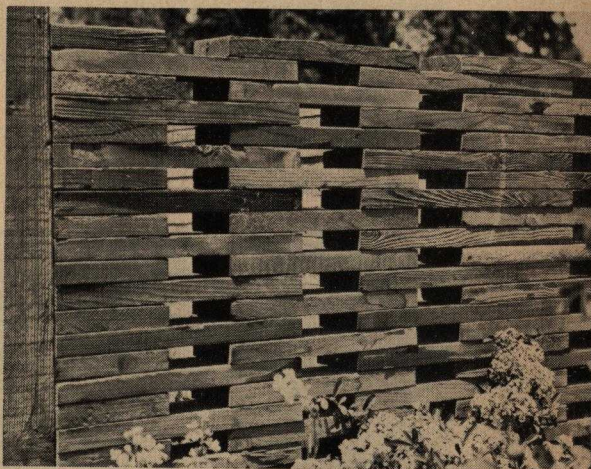
A good fence has many values—it'll give you *protection* and *beauty*. But it can do other things for you, too: *Your fence can mark a line, it can frame your house, it can protect you from dust and wind, and it can keep children and pets in or out.* More important than these, however, your fence can give your home and garden that sacred quality—*privacy*.

Privacy is a wonderful thing. With it, a one-room hunting shack becomes a castle. Without it, the most palatial house in town offers you about as much peace as a squirrel cage.

Today, privacy means you should be able to have your home and your yard to yourself, day or night.

You should be able to putter around your garden, dressed in shorts, soaking up sunshine, without starting a neighborhood buzz about your bowlegs. You should be able to have big windows to let in light and view, windows that let you watch the stars on a summer night without feeling exposed and obvious. In good conscience, you should be able to leave the dinner dishes on the table while you catch a favorite TV or radio program, without sensing derogatory comments on the state of your housekeeping. In fact, you should even be able to pound a nail or practice your tuba at midnight.

Your privacy problem isn't as tough as you think. There's no cheaper way to double the private living areas of your home than by constructing a fence. A fence can mean indoor privacy as well as yard privacy. It can add dignity to your property ownership by marking clearly what is yours and what is not yours. It can be a handsome backdrop for the private world of your garden. In fact, a fence is such a fine answer to privacy problems, that many neighbors have joined together to finance and build new ones.



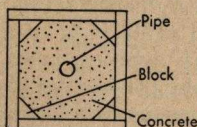
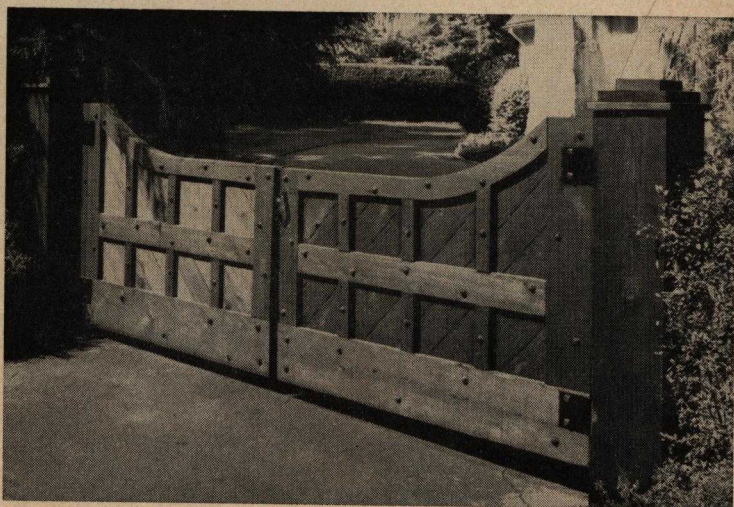
For the "fence sitters" is this fence, designed for easy climbing and safe sitting. Use inexpensive lumber, but for the sake of safety, bolt bottom boards to a concrete foundation; toenail the top nails

Attractive and inexpensive GATES YOU CAN MAKE

Choose one of these gates to help you control the traffic around your home. Suit yourself about the design—but make certain that your choice looks well both with your house and with your setting.

Look around for salvage or inexpensive lumber, and do the building and painting yourself. Paint or soak the wood—taking special care to cover the cut ends—with a chemical wood preservative.

Set posts in position solidly before you attempt to hang the gate. Reinforce both posts and gate against sag and warping if the weight calls for extra strength. Lastly, for years of duty and beauty, fit the gate with heavy-duty, and well-proportioned, hardware.



Post cross section



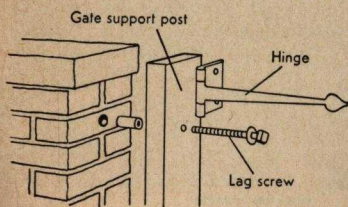
Hinge assembly

Driveway gate

This double gate, braced for perfect balance, is made up of odd lengths of crating and packing boxes

Colonial gate

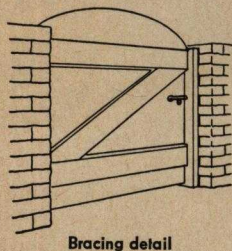
Here's privacy achieved with a solid gate of Colonial design, made of wide boards with beveled edges. Build frame first; brace up-and-down panels with molding and diagonal boards, mortise cross braces. Anchor hinges in 2x4s held to wall end



Photographs: de Gennaro; Weymouth. Drawings: Bado

Service-entrance gate

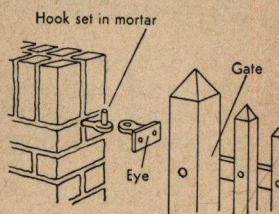
The simple design of this dignified service-entrance gate makes it exactly right with the brick posts, slat fence. Close-set, wide board panels painted white call your attention to the back-service passageway. You can reinforce the gate on the outside with horizontals and diagonals. Lamppost is distinctive





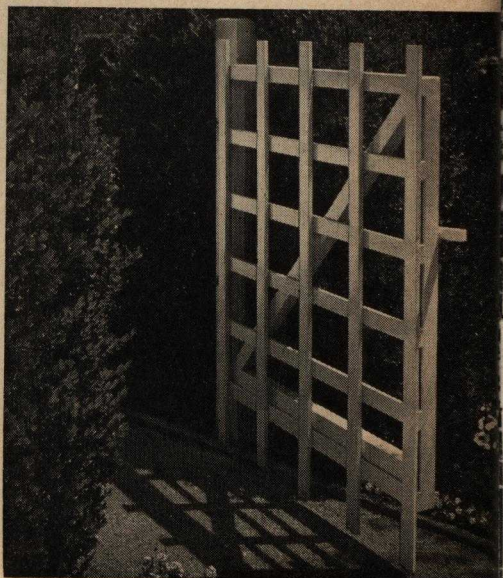
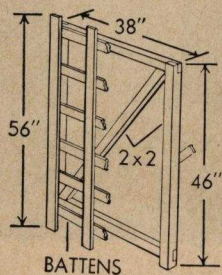
Picket gate

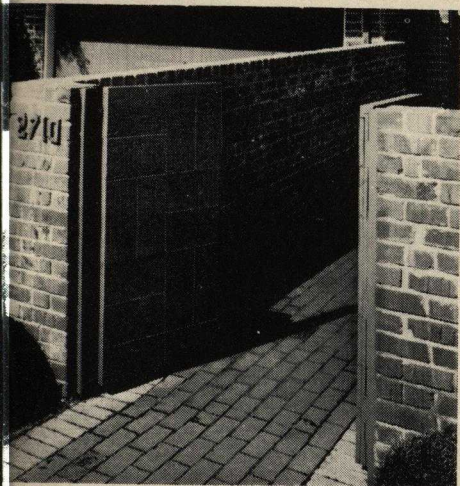
Square pointed pickets bolted to cross supports at graduated heights make a sturdy gate in a brick wall. Pickets are 2x2s, end post 4x4. Post is held to wall with strong hook, hinges



Batten gate

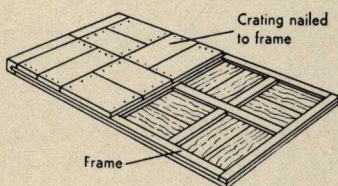
Here's an easy-to-make gate that'll fit a fence or hedge—made of battens on a frame of 2x2s. Brace it against sagging; use rustproof hinges





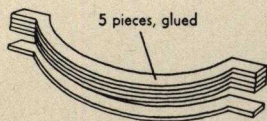
Small, double gate

Odd crating lengths nailed on frame make this unusual double gate. Imaginative design here alternates rough-cut blocks in vertical and horizontal squares to emphasize grain of wood. Extend the life of your gate by brushing wood preservative on blocks first



Trellis-top gate

Take split cedar stakes, redwood grapestakes, slats; erect them in solid 2x4 frame to combine attractively with a trellis top of 2x2s to complement fence. Decorative entrance is a fine guard for children. The curved gate top is made of five pieces sawed from a board $\frac{3}{4}$ inch thick. Apply a waterproof glue, and nail the pieces over the dowel pins. Then press until dry



GATES AND FENCES—

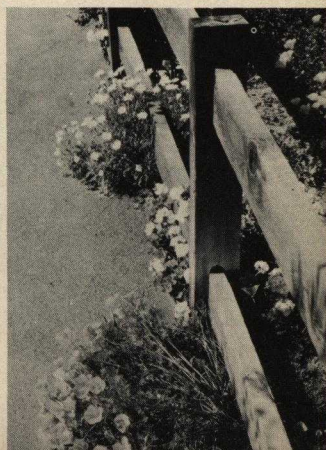
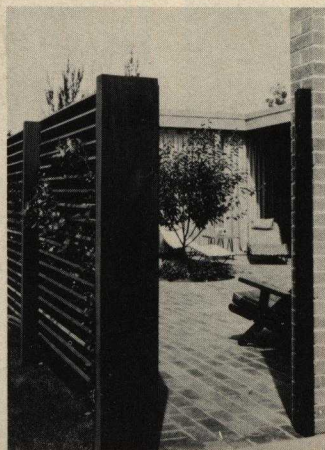
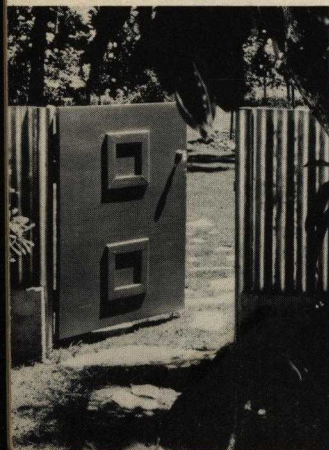
are part of your landscaping plan. Whether your need is complete privacy or only a simple boundary mark, you can fill it with one of the 14 fence styles featured in this book. Early in your planning decide the type of protection you want—whether it is high, solid screen or open post-and-rail fence will serve best. Consider designs that will let in light and breezes. The ideas in this book can be the springboard to many combinations or new ones that will fit exactly into the style of your home.

GATES ARE IMPORTANT, TOO

If you have small children that should be kept away from traffic or you just want to keep four-footed trespassers out, pay particular attention to the gate and latch. There is no need for a gate to be an eyesore in order to be functional. The ideas in this book are practical and in daily use. See how they blend in, actually add to the appearance of yard and house. You can buy assembled gates or have fun designing and making your own. A fence can be attractive, with thought and careful planning.

MATERIALS ARE IMPORTANT

The type of fence you build will determine the materials you use. Here is where the experience and “know-how” of your dealer can save you money. Draw a plan to scale; be sure your dealer knows just how you want the fence to look. He can tell you how much material and hardware you need. Also he can help you with some of the problems that you might have overlooked. A well-built, attractive fence is something that will give you pride of accomplishment and add to the beauty of your home. Your dealer has many customer services—use them often.



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